

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 24 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Wednesday 25 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Monday 23 Jan 2023 at 14:42

Confidence: High for general pattern, lowering for cloud details.

Headline for Tuesday 24 Jan 2023: Dull day with extensive hill fog, light rain and drizzle.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 24 Jan 2023

Blizzards

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

No Likelihood

Gales

No Likelihood

Severe chill effect

Low Likelihood

Poor visibility

High Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Light rain	Drizzle	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
80%	70%	80%	80%	80%	80%	90%	90%

Forecast for Tuesday 24 Jan 2023

Weather: A dull overcast day with light rain and drizzle, this most persistent over western areas of the park.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Virtually nil in west, 10-20% in east

Low cloud and visibility: Moderate or poor in rain and drizzle, very poor within cloud with bases extensive down to 500m, particularly in the west.

Forecast for Tuesday 24 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/26 S	21/26 S	21/26 SW	17/22 SW	16/21 SW	16/21 SW	17/22 SW	19/24 SW	19/24 SW
600	17/23 S	17/22 SW	17/23 SW	17/23 SW	18/24 SW	18/24 SW	19/26 SW	18/25 SW	14/20 SW
300	6/17 S	7/18 S	6/17 S	7/17 S	9/18 SW	9/18 SW	9/19 S	8/18 SW	5/16 SW
Valley	3/11 SW	3/12 SW	4/13 SW	5/13 SW	7/14 SW	6/13 SW	7/16 SW	6/15 SW	5/14 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-3	3/-3	3/-2	3/-2	3/-2	3/-2	3/-2	3/-2	3/-2
600	4/-1	4/-1	4/-1	4/-0	4/-0	4/-0	4/-1	4/-0	4/0
300	4/2	4/2	4/2	5/2	5/2	6/2	5/2	5/3	6/4
Valley	5/4	6/4	6/4	6/4	6/4	6/5	7/5	7/5	7/5
Freezing Level*	1700m	1600m	1600m	1600m	1600m	1700m	1800m	1900m	2000m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Meteorologist's View

Extensive hill fog, particularly widespread in the west. Severe wind chill effect across higher peaks.

Forecast for Wednesday 25 Jan 2023

Weather: Overcast start with occasional light rain and drizzle, becoming largely dry from mid-day with some brighter spells for the afternoon.

Maximum wind: West or southwest 25-30mph with gusts reaching 40-45mph across most exposed ridges and summits. Winds easing and veering later in the day.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Beginning virtually nil in west, 10-20% in east, becoming 80-90% for the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain and drizzle, very poor within cloud with bases extensive down to 500m at first, particularly in the west, before lifting and breaking for the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2 Celsius increasing 8 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 2 Celsius lowering Minus 1 Celsius late evening
Freezing level: Above summits lowering 700m late evening

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Monday 23 January Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:50. Full report: The thaw continues at all levels – for the first time in 10 days the summit daytime temperature was above freezing, albeit only marginally at plus 2 degrees C at midday. The thaw is especially rapid below 700m and there is now little snow left below 650m. Above 650m snow depth rises with height to reach a very rough average of around 10cm at 900m with the deepest drifts being over 70cm (although such depth is exceptional). Conversely, large areas of fellside up to and including summit level are now free from snow especially on south and west facing aspects which have caught both Sunday's sun and today's drizzle/cloud bearing wind. On the other hand, north and east facing aspects along with sheltered spots and hollows hold far more snow. Where undisturbed, the snowpack is generally soft and wet; however on popular routes there is plenty of compacted snow and ice making conditions treacherous. A particular hazard was isolated patches of hard ice on paths interspersed with plenty of slush which were often difficult to distinguish between. There were mixed conditions on the summit plateau with bare, wet rock, soft snow, hard snow and compacted snow and ice. Cornices (snow overhangs) exist above many steep north and east facing aspects – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. These have weakened with the thaw and become extremely unstable so please keep well back from any such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder weather, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) remains below freezing (minus 6 degrees C at midday), so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. For those attempting, or traversing, steep & exposed routes above the snowline (such as the Helvellyn edges), crampons and ice axe (plus experience in winter mountaineering) are also essential. Swirral Edge holds far more snow compared with Striding Edge but both exits consist of steep, deep snow. Although today this snow was largely soft and wet, there remains harder snow and it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for all the snow to harden and refreeze. These are not places to slip without the means (ie an ice axe) to stop yourself. Microspikes and trekking poles are recommended for any walkers heading above the snowline owing to the amount of ice and compacted snow on paths. Temperature: plus 1.8C, Maximum wind speed 23.2mph, Wind chill: minus 5.9C, Average wind speed: 21.2mph
Issued at: 1442 on Mon 23 Jan 2023